

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-11 currently remain in the application. Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled. Claims 9-11 are newly introduced claims. No claims are herein amended.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Eldridge in view of Kodosky. Although the Examiner seems to be of a contrary opinion in Paragraph 3 of the Official Letter, applicant continues to believe that the cited references do not support the Examiner's rejection of the application on the ground of obviousness because of their failure to disclose or even to hint at the distinguishable characteristic of the present invention according to which a structure and its circuit are simultaneously displayed and, if a function block in this circuit is selected thereafter, this selected function block is displayed with emphasis. For example, as explained already earlier in the prosecution, if a function block in the circuit on the right-hand side in an illustrated figure is selected, the corresponding function block in the structural diagram on the left-hand side is displayed with an emphasis. Such a distinguishable feature is not disclosed by either of the cited references and hence is believed novel and patentable.

In summary, applicant is of the opinion that the application has already been in condition for allowance in spite of the cited references, but new claims 9-11 are herein presented for the purpose of more clearing reminding the reader that the program that contains function blocks is hierarchically structured according to this invention. This limitation is believed to be supported by the specification, most directly at line 13 of page 2 and more generally in Figs. 9-11 and hence is deemed enterable.

The Examiner is solicited to review if still another claim or claims further incorporating limitations along the line of the paragraph at lines 14-23 of page 10 of the specification would be necessary for bringing the case into allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 6, 2009
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